

# Self-Determination Workgroup

## Meeting Minutes

### 12 September 2005

Present: Kenneth Ekong, Dustin Erikson, Paul Smith, Scott Roudabush, Krissie Summerhays, Lori Packard, Sara Brozovsky, Renee McCarvel, Chris Christiansen, Angie Pinna

This meeting began by introducing the consumer representative, Renee McCarvel. It is believed that with her experiences, she will be an asset to the workgroup.

Thanks to everyone for gathering their information. The survey was approved two weeks ago, and there were many responses to review from a variety of stakeholders. The survey asked what is an effective way to measure self-determination, and what outcomes lead to a self-determined life.

After reviewing the information some commonalities were discussed. Some common threads regarding what is important in self-determination were: self-esteem, respect, relationships, choices, looking forward to the future, communication, education and the list continued. Since the workgroup received the surveys in this meeting, it was determined that each person will review the surveys and return next meeting with what they observed to be the 7 most common outcomes or indicators to having a self-determined life. The indicators with the greatest consensus will then be used in developing the product. It was stated that it is important to educate the family along with people.

Several tools for measuring self-determination were included with the survey and were reviewed by the workgroup, and it was determined that none met the needs of our state, but that elements of them could be used.

There was discussion around specifically what the end result of this workgroup will be as well. The challenge with this workgroup is that it was developed to meet a need, including coming up with the solution. So, it was not assumed that a training, or a manual, or some other teaching method was what needed to be pursued to promote self-determination within our system. Instead, the workgroup was developed to determine together, as representatives of diverse stakeholder groups, the best method to promote self-determination. The workgroup is now at a point where the end product needs to be determined to enable the workgroup to continue.

One option presented was to use the end product to educate people on person-centered planning processes and how to make them more self-determined. It was mentioned that person-centered planning overlaps with self-determination, but it is not the whole philosophy. Discussion moved to the group working on the person-centered planning process. There are representatives from each region; the state office representatives are Alan Tribble, Lori Packard and Scott Kline. Feedback and ideas regarding the person-

centered planning process can be shared with them. Paul Smith shared an article from TASH with everyone, which takes a look at self-determination over the past decade. This article discusses the overlap of person centered planning, self-directed services, and provider choice with self-determination, and how each process has strengths, but cannot create a self-determined life. Much of what this group has discussed is related to getting the philosophy of self-determination out there. Helping people understand what it means and how it impacts people. There has been a lot of discussion regarding developing a training piece for staff.

One consistent consensus is that the product developed will not be used to measure providers or others. It was determined that each representative will come to the next meeting with concrete ideas of what they want the product to be, whether it is a guide, a manual, a workshop, a train the trainer, a newsletter, a course online with assignments, or any other idea. During the next meeting these will be discussed along with their strengths and weaknesses and the implementation method will be determined.

Scott brought some articles from the Nevada dual-sensory Impairment Project, regarding communication, and shared these with everyone. Communication continues to be a priority. Things to consider are: "How does the person want us to communicate with them?" and "How do they communicate?" A common recommendation in these meetings is also that resources and tools need to be provided. Efforts will be made to find additional resources on communication as well.

**Assignments:**

ALL – Come with the 7 most common outcomes identified in the surveys

ALL – Come to the next meeting with clear, concrete ideas about what you want the product of the workgroup to be.

Angie – minutes

Thank you to everyone for your ideas, time and input.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11 October 2005.